



## Support for State VR Agencies and Partnership Plus:

The WINTAC, CSAVR, and E3 Targeted Communities (E3TC) are collaborating to support VR Agencies who would like to develop/expand and implement a Partnership Plus model that works for their state.

Partnership Plus can expand a state's capacity to provide long-term supports resulting in an enhanced ability to address the dynamic and often complex needs of Social Security beneficiaries. An effective Partnership Plus model can position Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) agencies as a key player in collaboration with core and community partners consistent with the vision of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

## Benefits of Partnership Plus for State VR Agency:

- Positions State Vocational Rehabilitation Agency to be a leader in collaboration
- Addresses challenges of being in Order of Selection
- Promotes Better Long-Term Supports
  - Potential to expand capacity for long-term follow-along increasing success under WIOA common measures including:
    - higher wages at exit and better hourly earnings,
    - better job retention,
    - rapid re-engagement if unexpected job loss does occur and
    - promotes career advancement through career pathways and other avenues.
  - Potential to expand capacity for ongoing Work Incentives/Benefits Counseling and Financial Empowerment.
- Likelihood for increased revenue from cost reimbursement

## Benefits of Partnership Plus for Beneficiary:

- Better Long-Term Supports
  - Ongoing access to Employment and Work Incentive Specialists for answers on a range of topics for 5-7 years, including:
    - As-needed interventions to ensure employment success
    - SSA issues; Support in establishing work incentives;
    - Unexpected advocacy needs including connections to other programs/services;
    - Questions about hours, wages, advancement, promotions, new jobs;
    - Explanation about any materials received from SSA;
    - Changes in health insurance.
    - Explanations about options for continued Medicare and/or Medicaid.
  - Continued protection from medical CDR as long as Timely Progress is met.

**WINTAC, E3TC and CSAVR will support states through sustained technical assistance from planning through implementation. Webinars, Toolkits and other resources will be disseminated to support these efforts.**

**For more information:** [www.wintac.org](http://www.wintac.org); WINTAC: Nikki Powis [npowis@ndi-inc.org](mailto:npowis@ndi-inc.org); E3TC: DJ Ralston [djralston@gwu.edu](mailto:djralston@gwu.edu)